

Arlington Town Meeting — Motion to Amend Article 38

Dated: April 30, 2023

Judith Garber, Precinct 4

I do hereby submit the following Motion to Amend Article 38 “Capital Budget” Section 2 to read “That the sum of \$3,933,856 **\$3,918,856** be and hereby is appropriated for various capital projects and equipment as shown below, and expended under the direction of the Town Manager:”

Item	Amount		Department
1	\$ 26,791	New Voting Booths	CLERK
2	\$ 30,000	Firefighter Protective Gear	FIRE
3	\$ 20,000	LUCAS 3 - Chest Compression System	FIRE
4	\$ 15,000	Bola Wrap De-Escalation Tools	POLICE
5	\$ 15,133	QED Server	POLICE
6	\$ 160,000	Vehicle Replacement Program	POLICE
7	\$ 75,000	Town Hall - Renovations	FACILITIES
8	\$ 60,000	School - Admin Computers and Peripherals	IT
9	\$ 80,000	School - Network Infrastructure	IT
10	\$ 400,000	School - Replacement academic PC's district wide	IT
11	\$ 40,000	School - Software Licensing	IT
12	\$ 62,000	Town Microcomputer Program	IT
13	\$ 155,000	Town Software Upgrades & Standardization	IT
14	\$ 77,000	Energy Management System	LIBRARY
15	\$ 53,803	MLN Equipment Schedule	LIBRARY
16	\$ 75,000	Design and engineering consultants	PLANNING
17	\$ 30,000	Electrification and air quality master planning	PLANNING
18	\$ 100,000	Townwide ADA acccessibility upgrades	PLANNING
19	\$ 215,378	Accessibility Improvements (Override 2019)	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY
20	\$ 367,000	Roadway Reconstruction	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY
21	\$ 524,833	Roadway Reconstruction Override 2011	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY
22	\$ 18,000	Sander Body	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY
23	\$ 65,000	Sidewalk Ramp Installation	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY
24	\$ 430,000	Sidewalks and Curbstones	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY
25	\$ 50,000	Traffic Signal Upgrades	PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY
26	\$ 78,000	1 Ton Pickup Truck w-Dump Body	PUBLIC WORKS NATURAL RESOURCES
27	\$ 64,918	Photocopier Replacement Program	PURCHASING
28	\$ 50,000	ADA Study Implementation Program	RECREATION
29	\$ 75,000	Ed Burns Arena Parking Study	RECREATION

30	\$ 10,000	Feasibility Study	RECREATION
31	\$ 70,000	Playground Audit and Safety Improvements	RECREATION
32	\$ 31,000	All Schools - Energy Efficiency Projects	SCHOOLS
33	\$ 25,000	All Schools - Flooring	SCHOOLS
34	\$ 120,000	All Schools - Photocopier Lease Program	SCHOOLS
35	\$ 50,000	All Schools - Security Updates	SCHOOLS
36	\$ 70,000	Arlington High School and Ottoson Middle School - Radios	SCHOOLS
37	\$ 50,000	Facilities Vehicle Replacement	SCHOOLS
38	\$ 45,000	Ottoson Middle School Gym Divider	SCHOOLS
39	\$ 50,000	Ottoson Middle School Public Address System & Clock Replacements	SCHOOLS
40	-\$15,000	Cuts applied at the direction of the Town Manager	
	\$3,933,856 \$3,918,856	Total Cash Expenditure	

Comment: This amendment adds a \$15,000 cut to the budget at the direction of the Town Manager, which reduces the total cash expenditures to \$3,918,856. While Town Meeting cannot require the Town Manager to spend or not spend on a specific item in a budget article, I urge the Town Manager to apply this cut towards **removing the \$15,000 expenditure for Bola Wrap for the police department from Section 2 of the Capital Planning Budget.**

The Bola Wrap is a tool used by police and military to restrain someone from a distance for the purpose of rapid de-escalation. The Arlington Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and many others in town have concerns about the decision to purchase these devices for the APD, given the potential harms of the wrap (including injury from falls, punctures, and potential asphyxiation) and the lack of a formal usage policy.

The town has taken a positive step in hiring a mental health clinician to co-respond to calls for help during mental health crises; we should continue to hand off this responsibility to professionals best equipped for it, not invest in new weapons technologies that will further erode trust in the town among residents with mental health challenges. Given that the APD is already trained in nonviolent conflict resolution techniques, I question whether this purchase is necessary and appropriate.

I have filed this amendment because using town funds to purchase potentially dangerous high-tech lassos is not one that should be made without input and approval from those most likely to be impacted by these devices.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Judith Garber

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____

Judith Garber, Precinct 4